

House Republicans thank Daryl Hannah for getting the Keystone XL pipeline onto President Barack Obama's radar — and inspiring them to place it higher on the GOP's legislative agenda.

The "Splash" and "Wall Street" actress probably didn't envision galvanizing congressional opposition when she was arrested with more than 1,000 other activists who staged sit-ins at the White House in August and September.

But Hannah's role in drawing media attention to what was then a little-known, proposed 1,700-mile oil pipeline also helped Republicans focus on a single energy issue to use against Obama as he shifted into reelection mode, culminating with its inclusion this month as a controversial rider in House- and Senate-passed bills to extend the payroll tax cut.

"That's when it went from just being a quirky Energy and Commerce subcommittee issue to being a full House national issue," said Rep. Lee Terry (R-Neb.), a supporter of the Alberta-to-Texas pipeline. "Those folks decided to make it a Hollywood issue, and all of a sudden, it was a big issue."

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